

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 23

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27—Relative to Black April Memorial Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 16, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 27, Correa. Black April Memorial Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of April 23 to April 30, 2012, inclusive, as Black April Memorial Week, a special time for Californians to remember the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War era, and to hope for a more humane and just life for the people of Vietnam.

WHEREAS, April 30, 2012, marks the 37th anniversary of the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, to communism; and

WHEREAS, For many Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who were directly involved in the war and Vietnamese Americans who have settled in the United States, the Vietnam War was a tragedy full of great suffering and the loss of American, Vietnamese, and Southeast Asian lives; and

WHEREAS, Fifty-eight thousand one hundred sixty-nine people were killed and 304,000 were wounded out of the 2.59 million people who served in the Vietnam War. One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam became a casualty of war; and

WHEREAS, After the fall of Saigon, over 135,000 Vietnamese fled to the United States, including former military and government officials and Vietnamese who had worked for the United States during the war, and their families; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of people took boats in order to leave Vietnam in the late 1970s to mid-1980s. The successful emigrants reached refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong; while approximately one-half of the people fleeing Vietnam perished at sea; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Census for 2010, more than 465,000 Vietnamese live in California, with the largest concentration of Vietnamese found outside of Vietnam residing in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, Human rights, religious freedom, and democracy are important concerns of Vietnamese Americans; and

WHEREAS, We must teach our children and future generations important lessons from the Vietnam War, including how the plight of the Vietnamese refugees following the end of war serves as a powerful example of the values of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, We, the people of California, should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual freedom, and equal protection under the laws of a just and democratic world. Californians should set aside moments of time every year on April 30 to give remembrance to the soldiers, medical personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War era in pursuit of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout California will commemorate April 30, 2012, as Black April, a day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom, including freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and Internet freedom; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That in recognition of the great tragedy and suffering and lives lost during the Vietnam War era, the week of April 23, 2012, to April 30, 2012, inclusive, shall be proclaimed Black April Memorial Week, a special time for Californians to remember the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War era, and to hope for a more humane and just life for the people of Vietnam; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.